

SPOUT RUN PARKWAY CULVERT
Spout Run Parkway, spanning Spout Run
Arlington Vicinity
Arlington County
Virginia

HAER No. VA-88

HAER
VA
7-ARLV,
16-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: 1.1 miles from George Washington Memorial Parkway. Spout Run Parkway milepost 0.5, carries eastbound Spout Run Parkway over Spout Run in Arlington County.

FHwA Structure No. 3300-039P.

Date of Construction: 1947.

Type: Reinforced concrete rigid frame arch bridge.

Designer: Public Roads Administration with approval from the National Park Service.

Present Owner: National Capital Region, National Park Service.

Present Use: Carries non-commercial vehicular traffic over Spout Run.

Significance: Built as part of the GWMP.

Project Information: Documentation of the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Clara Barton Parkway was undertaken as a multi-year project by the Historic American Buildings Survey and the Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), a combined division of the National Park Service, Robert Kapsch, Chief. The project was sponsored by the Park Roads Program of the National Park Service, John Gingles, Deputy Chief, Engineering and Safety Services Division. The Project Supervisor was Sara Amy Leach, HABS Historian. Bridge reports were prepared by Elizabeth M. Nolin (1988); Michael P. Kucher (University of Delaware, 1993); and Jennifer P. Wentzien (University of Washington, 1994).

HABS Report No. VA-69 prepared by Timothy Davis (University of Texas) provides an overview history of the entire parkway project. Jack E. Boucher and Jet Lowe produced the large-format photographs. The Washington-based summer 1994 documentation team was headed by landscape architect Tim Mackey (Harvard University, Graduate School of Design).

II. HISTORY

The Spout Run Culvert is one of numerous culverts located along the George Washington Memorial Parkway. The Federal Highway Administration defines a culvert as a bridge structure with less than a 20' span. Another defining characteristic of culverts is that they are fully enclosed, including the bottom. Engineering is by the Public Works Administration, the successor to the Bureau of Public Roads and predecessor of today's Federal Highway Administration. William Haussmann, designer of numerous GWMP structures from the 1940s through the 1960s is cited as the designer on the architectural plans. Architectural treatment including stone facing is in keeping with early parkway bridge structures designed by Gilmore Clarke, consulting landscape architect.

Description

Spout Run Culvert appears from the architectural drawings to be a rigid frame structure similar to the Spout Run Bridge Westbound (HAER No. VA-86). The structure carries considerable load as nearly 10' of sodded earth were piled onto the structure prior to placement of the roadway. The frame spans 20' and has a clearance of 10'. The deck is 61' wide including two 16' lanes, shoulders, and steeply sloped embankments. Stone faced, reinforced concrete wing walls are called out as Class "A" local stone masonry with granite copings and ringstones. The parapet curves upward following a cubic parabola. The structure was designed to carry a standard H-20 loading of the American Association of State Highway Officials.¹

III. SOURCES

Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration. "Final construction Report, George Washington Memorial Parkway, Project 6A12." 1947. Unable to locate this report at the remote storage facility of the Eastern Federal Lands Division, Federal Highway Administration, Sterling, VA.

Federal Works Agency, Public Roads Administration. Plans for Proposed Project 6A12. Microfiche reductions of original construction drawings are on file at National Capital Region Park Headquarters, National Park Service, Washington D.C.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. "Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet - Structure No. 3300-039P." 4/21/93.

U.S. Department of the Interior, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), No. VA-69, "George Washington Memorial Parkway," 1994. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

¹National Park Service, "Structure Inventory and Appraisal Sheet," 4/21/93.